

NEWTOWN & LLANLLWCHAIARN  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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**REPORT**  
OF THE  
*Medical Officer of Health*  
*For the Year 1944.*

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To the Chairman and Members of the  
Newtown and Llanllwchaiarn  
Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report for the year 1944.

The Public Health Officials of your Urban District are the Medical Officer of Health (part time) and Mr. A. S. Benbow who combines the duties of Highways Surveyor, Water Manager, and Meat Inspector with the important post of Sanitary Inspector.

**STATISTICS.**

Area—7,224 acres.

Estimated population—5,049.

Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1944 according to the rate book—1,550.

Rateable value—£23,965.

Sum represented by one penny rate—£96.

During the year the district has been free from any serious epidemic.

The general health of the community, despite war-time restrictions, has been good. Unemployment has been practically non-existent due to the existence of factories employed on War-time work. All available buildings have been occupied as depots for food, etc., and this has given employment to a very considerable number of people.

## VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

		Total.	M.	F.
Live Births		100	63	37
	{ Legitimate	...	60	35
	{ Illegitimate	...	3	2

This gives a Birth Rate of 19.8 per 1,000 of the estimated civilian population compared with a rate of 17.6 for the whole of England and Wales.

		Total.	M.	F.
Still Births		1	1	0
	{ Legitimate	...	1	0
	{ Illegitimate	...	0	0

The rates per 1,000 live and still births is 9.9.

		Total.	M.	F.
Deaths	...	67	27	40

The death rate per 1,000 of the estimated civilian population is 13.2 compared with 11.6 for the whole of England and Wales.

There were no deaths from puerperal or post-abortion causes.

There was one death from other maternal causes.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age: one male, illegitimate.

The rate per 1,000 live and still births is 9.9.

## Causes of Death.

Cancer	...	...	10
Heart Disease	...	...	21
Other Circulatory diseases	...	...	2
Bronchitis	...	...	4
Pneumonia	...	...	1
Appendicitis	...	...	1
Other digestive diseases	..	...	1
Nephritis	...	...	3
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	...	...	12
Acute Inf. Encephalitis	...	...	1
Tuberculosis	...	...	3
Violent Causes	...	...	1
Maternal Causes	..	...	1
Premature Birth	...	...	1
All other Causes	...	...	5

There were no deaths from Measles, Whooping Cough or Diarrhoea under 2 years.

## Infectious Diseases notifiable during the year :—

Pneumonia	...	...	7
Whooping Cough	...	...	12
Erysipelas	...	...	2
Scarlet fever	...	...	15
Measles	...	...	71
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	...	...	1

## TUBERCULOSIS.

There were three deaths in 1944, two pulmonary, and one non-pulmonary in a female age 22.

The non-pulmonary deaths were one female aged 27, and one male aged 62.

There were notified during the year, four cases of Tubercle of the lung, all males aged respectively 16, 28, 32, and 41.

One male aged 1½ years was transferred from the Rural District with tubercle of the cervical glands.

The Notification of the disease is satisfactorily carried out in the district and full advantage is taken of the services of the Medical Officers of the Welsh National Memorial Association.

## WATER.

The quality of water supplied to the district has been very satisfactory see results of Chemical and bacteriological reports below:—

The amount of water available is ample, but during day-time, owing to the lack of sufficient pressure the higher levels in the town have been without a regular supply. This is remedied at night by cutting off the supply to parts of the lower districts. This is not a satisfactory condition and means ought to be devised by which all houses should have constant supply.

Some years ago, mechanical filters were installed about two miles from the impounding reservoir and a service reservoir was constructed at a slightly higher level than the filters. It has been found that it is impossible to keep this service reservoir full at anytime, and it is usually nearly empty. As a consequence the filtered water goes direct into the main leading to the town.

Owing to the water going direct into the main from the filters there is at times not sufficient pressure to keep the chlorinating plant in proper working order. The variation in the pressure is also likely to interfere with the efficiency of the filtering plant.

The Consulting Water Engineer who was responsible for the installation of the filters and service reservoir has been consulted several times and as recently as July of this year

he advises the laying of a new nine-inch pipe from the impounding reservoir to the filtering plant and until this work can be carried out, scraping of the existing seven-inch pipe. This pipe has been periodically scraped, the last time two years ago and there was some temporary improvement. I would advise that as early as possible, a pipe of sufficient size to ensure the keeping of the service reservoir constantly full be laid from the impounding lake. The filters are of such sizes that they can easily deal with a larger quantity of water.

During the year, no sample of the raw water was sent for examination, monthly samples of the water going into supply were sent and with one exception when the Chlorination plant was not working properly all were satisfactory. On receipt of the unsatisfactory report, another sample was sent which proved to be quite satisfactory.

This is a copy of one report sent on 15/11/44 which it is similar to the others :—

Probable number of Coli form bacilli MacConkey 2 days, 37°C. 0 per m. l. Approximate proportions of faecal and non-faecal Coli.

Faecal Coli	...	...	0 per cent.
Non-faecal Coli	...	...	0 per cent.

Remarks: No free chlorine present. Satisfactory.

From Medical Research Council, Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service, dated 17/11/44.

Chemical Analysis from Laboratory. Assay Office, Chester.

Harold Lowe, M.Sc., F.I.C.

Sample dated 14/10/44

Marked Tap in Yard, Wesley St., Newtown.

In parts 100,000 of Water :—

Total Solid matter in Solution	...	12.0
Nitrogen in Nitrates and Nitrites	...	Nil
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	1.3

Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate			
in 4 hours at 80° F.	...	...	0.14
Free and Saline Ammonia	...	...	0.003
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	0.010
Lead, Copper, Zinc	...	...	Nil
Microscopic examination of sediment	...	...	...
	Very slight trace of siliceous muttey		
Temperory hardness	..	6 Degrees Clark	
Permanent hardness	...	2 Degrees Clark	
P H' Value	...	...	7.4
Appearance in 2ft. tube	...	Pale brown	

The above Chemical Analysis is satisfactory.

If the bacteriological quality is satisfactory, the water is suitable for drinking and domestic use.

(Signed), HAROLD LOWE, M.Sc., F.I.C.

The Watershed is regularly inspected and any probable source of contamination is promptly dealt with.

Water is supplied direct to the inside of 1,041 houses, the remaining 386 are supplied by stand pipes situated in Yards. There are no stand pipes on the public highways.

Since the beginning of the War, there have been a considerable number of troops in the town. There has also been erected a factory on the outskirts to which a new four-inch water main was laid. A Prisoner-of-War Camp was also erected and the water supply to this was diverted to a service tank during the night, from the main line before it entered the town. These with some smaller factories have all been regularly supplied with water.

#### SANITARY INSECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

- (a) The number of inspections made by me during the year - 186.
- (b) The number of notices served during the year distinguishing Statutory from Informal notices : -



	Served.	Complied with.
1.—Informal Notices ...	59	54
2.—Statutory Notices ...	Nil	Nil
(c) The result of service of such notices :—		
1.—Informal notices complied with ...		54
2.—Statutory notices complied with ...		Nil

### HOUSING.

Inspections under the Housing Act have been made, but there is still great difficulty in getting repairs and improvements carried out, owing to the scarcity of skilled labour.

### MEAT INSPECTION.

During the year regular inspections have been made at the Government Slaughter House, and the following animals were killed:—

Cattle: 1,337. Sheep: 15,988. Pigs: 123. Calves: 1,787.

The following carcasses with Tuberculosis were condemned, and the undermentioned are the particulars:—

Carcasses—Cattle with Tuberculosis	...	17
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There were a few carcasses which were fevered, etc., which were condemned, and parts of carcasses and organs which had fluke, abscesses, etc., which were also condemned.

### SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The Sewage Farm which has been regularly inspected, was found in a fairly satisfactory condition.

### MILK AND DAIRIES ACT.

Inspections have been paid to the Cowsheds and Dairies, and these were found to be in a clean state.

Samples of milk have been taken each week and sent away to be tested for cleanliness and keeping qualities. The results vary from week to week, but on the whole the reports have been fairly satisfactory.

In conclusion, I would like to put on record the assistance I always get from the Sanitary Inspector and all other Officials of the Council.

I am,

Yours obediently,

A. SHEARER,

Medical Officer of Health.

27th August, 1945.